

The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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Governor Black.

We observe that all predictions as to the personnel of the delegation at large from this State to the national Republican convention include the name of FRANK S. BLACK as one of the four delegates.

The selection of this gentleman for such a position will be an appropriate and deserved honor. He possesses elements of leadership which merit further recognition at the hands of his party. He is a man of higher ideals than many leaders who might be named, who have managed by questionable means to obtain a prominence and exert an influence which are far from beneficial to the Republican cause. In the few political speeches which he has made since his retirement from office he has manifested a broad grasp of party questions, and an intellectual force and acumen capable of affording great assistance to Republicanism; and it behooves the party to put such men forward and let some of his rivals retire into the shade.

Moreover, FRANK S. BLACK is a man of integrity; and we confidently predict that this characteristic must be made more influential in Republican leadership in the State of New York if the party hopes to prevail here in the coming Presidential election.

The Russian Retreat.

The Russians are reported as evacuating various parts of Manchuria, and the determination of ALEXIEFF to withdraw to Harbin and leave Port Arthur to the vicissitudes of a siege is confirmed.

This has all the appearance of being the beginning of the Russian retreat, and those who are familiar with history know that the Russian retreat is infinitely more to be dreaded than the Russian advance.

From this, it is only reasonable to infer, the really arduous part of Japan's work will commence.

Panama Affairs.

There is no reason to doubt that on Tuesday, Jan. 23, many more votes than the needed two-thirds will be given in the United States Senate for the ratification of the Canal treaty concluded with the Republic of Panama. What will then be the situation on the Isthmus, and what legislation will be requisite before the task of completing the waterway is undertaken?

To-day the organic law just adopted by a constitutional convention will become operative in the new republic, and Dr. AMADOR, the leading member of the provisional Junta, will be inaugurated as the first President of Panama.

It is known that in the convention the Liberals predominated, but they did not carry out their original purpose of separating Church and State. With a view of averting discord in the infant Commonwealth, they made considerable concessions to the Conservatives or Clericals. For about twenty years the United States of Colombia have been in the hands of the Clerical party, and the Conservative members of Panama's constitutional convention desired that no change should be made in the arrangements by which not only has Roman Catholicism been recognized as the established religion of the State, but the national exchequer has been given from the national exchequer to the episcopate and the clergy. The Liberals would not agree to provide salaries for Bishops and priests in their ecclesiastical capacities, but consented to acknowledge the religion of the new republic, and to permit priests to receive stipends for performing educational and charitable functions. They were also willing to insert in the Constitution a provision that the Isthmian Government should furnish the money needed for the erection and maintenance of a Catholic seminary, and for church missions to the Indian. More than this the Clericals could not secure, and had they offered unyielding obstruction to the adoption of an organic law, they might have provoked the Liberals to insist on an absolute severance of Church and State.

Not only have the Liberals exercised a controlling influence on the framing of Panama's organic law, but for some time, at all events, they will continue to dominate the Legislature; for the members of the constitutional convention are to constitute the first National Assembly.

The laws most urgently required will be those providing for the maintenance of order and regulating the circulating medium in all that part of the new Republic which lies outside of the ten-mile canal zone. As to the circulating medium, it is expected that the Legislature will either authorize a coinage identical in value and denomination with our own; or, what might prove more convenient, declare United States coins the legal currency. The almost worthless paper money of Colombia is, of course, no longer current on the Isthmus. As by the treaty to be ratified next week the United States have guaranteed the territorial integrity of the Republic, and as the Isthmian Constitution authorizes the United States to intervene in the event of internal troubles, the Panama Legislature's outlay for military and naval purposes may obviously be restricted to two or three revenue cutters and a few scores of soldiers. The maintenance of order in those sections of the

Commonwealth that lie outside of the canal belt will, no doubt, be relegated to a police force.

After the Canal treaty has been ratified there will be something for us to do in the way of legislation before proceeding to exercise the rights accruing under it. We are informed that in order to avert any legal controversy respecting the scope of the authority conferred on the Executive by the Spooner act, Congress will be forthwith requested to authorize the payment to Panama of the \$10,000,000 for which the Canal treaty provides; and, also, the issuance of bonds for the construction of the waterway. There is no reason to doubt that the authorization will be given without delay.

Congress will also be invited to say what substitute shall be adopted for military law within the ten-mile canal zone, which will pass under our jurisdiction as soon as the ratifications of the treaty shall have been exchanged. Congress may decide that the existing laws of the United States shall be applied in the canal zone, notwithstanding the difference of racial conditions; or, if this shall be deemed inexpedient, it may enact a special code of laws for the district; or it may save time and trouble, and avoid mistakes, by creating an Isthmian Commission, which shall be distinct from that charged with the construction of the canal, but which, like the Philippine Commission, shall have power to promulgate and execute laws, subject, of course, to the subsequent approval of our Federal Legislature.

It is also manifest that, before we begin work on the waterway, Congress ought to pass the legislation needed to enable us to devise and carry out adequate sanitary regulations on the Isthmus. This is a matter in which delay would be a crime.

It is also pointed out by our Washington correspondent that the power given us by treaty to exercise within the canal zone the right of eminent domain—i. e., the right to condemn private property for public use, imposes upon Congress the corresponding duty of formulating the regulations by which appraisalment shall be made and awards paid.

Congress will be guilty of a grave dereliction of duty should it adjourn without completing the legislation required for the safe and effective resumption of work on the interoceanic waterway.

The Wonderful Career of China's Empress-Regent.

The death of the Empress-Regent of China was reported yesterday from Canton. If the report prove true, one of the most picturesque and memorable feminine careers of which history bears record is at an end. Since CATHERINE II., no woman has evinced such a remarkable gift for governing; and, unlike the Russian sovereign, the Empress TSI AN was not born a princess, and entered on her arduous role without any of the aptitudes derivable from education. If we keep in view at once the lowly station from which she sprang and the height to which she ascended, we must recognize that her only counterpart is to be found in the wife of JUSTINIAN, the Byzantine Empress THEODORA, whose singular vicissitudes are recounted with much zest by GREGORY. It was, moreover, far more difficult for a woman to acquire and keep political ascendancy in China than it was in the Eastern Roman Empire, for the rule that the female sex must not be invested with supreme authority had but twice been broken in the long annals of the Middle Kingdom.

We shall never see an exhaustive biography of the Empress-Regent until the history of the reigns of her husband and of her successors, which it is the business of the Censors to compile with unflinching truthfulness, shall have been published, and the publication will not take place until the Manchu dynasty shall have been overthrown. Meanwhile, the facts which are accepted as more or less authentic may be briefly summarized.

We first hear of TSI AN as the favorite concubine, but not one of the regular wives, of the Emperor HIEN FUNG, who in 1850 succeeded the Emperor TAO KWANG, and who himself died in 1861. The next sovereign, TUNG CHE, was only five years old when he nominally succeeded his father HIEN FUNG, and for the following twelve years the Government of China was in the hands of two women, one of whom was the Empress Dowager, while the other was TSI AN, who, since the death of her feminine co-regent, has practically been the sole mistress of the Middle Kingdom.

It is true that in 1873 TUNG CHE attained his majority and began ostensibly to rule, but two years later he died without issue, under suspicious circumstances. As, by the organic law of the dynasty, an Emperor's heir must be younger than he from whom the inheritance comes, TUNG CHE, having no younger brothers, had to be succeeded by one of the sons of his father's younger brothers. The choice of the two Empress-Regents fell on the infant son of TAO KWANG, seventh son of TAO KWANG, which infant son became ostensibly Emperor under the name of KWANG SU.

After a minority which, on various pretexts, was unusually protracted, KWANG SU was permitted by the Empress-Regent, who, for some time, had been the exclusive possessor of authority, to assume the sovereignty. No sooner did he evince, however, an inclination to reorganize the Chinese system of education by the adoption of Western methods and ideals than he was compelled by a palace revolution to invite TSI AN to leave her retirement and to cooperate with him in his imperial functions. This compulsory invitation was regarded as tantamount to abdication, and TSI AN was ever afterward, as she had been before KWANG SU's accession, the virtual ruler of China. It was, for a time, supposed that she would feel insecure so long as KWANG SU should live, and it was predicted that she should soon hear of his death. As a matter of fact, his poor health and alleged inability to conduct the business of State was the pretext assigned for the designation of the nine-year-old son of Prince TUAN as his heir-apparent. It is well known that this

appointment has been cancelled since the suppression of the Boxer rebellion.

Whether the Empress-Regent connived at the Boxer uprising against foreigners and was implicated in the attack on the legations at Peking is a question to which not even diplomatists who were residing at the time in the Chinese capital seem prepared to give a positive answer. There are those disposed to think that the Empress-Regent countenanced, if she did not incite, the attack upon the legations, but that after the capture of Tientsin she wavered and was not unwilling to see the consequences of the crime averted by the pro-foreign party, of which Prince CHING and the great Yangtze Viceroy LU KUN WU and CHANG CHIH TUNG were regarded as representatives. To what extent, if at all, she should be held accountable for the second reaction, exemplified in the murder of two pro-foreign members of the Tsung-li-Yamen (Board of Foreign Affairs), is not even yet determined.

According to another theory, Prince TUAN, father of the child who then was heir-apparent, used the influence derived from his official position at the head of the Tsung-li-Yamen, a place to which he had been raised in the spring of 1900, to depress the pro-foreign party and to compel the Empress-Regent to encourage the Boxer uprising and authorize the attack on the legations. According to the latter theory, which, at the time, was accepted by the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan, and which has since been adopted by all the Powers as a working hypothesis, Prince TUAN was a usurper and the Empress-Regent was a victim of duress and coercion.

This hypothesis was convenient, for it warranted the assertion that the Powers that took part in the expedition for the relief of the legations were not technically at war with the Peking Government, but that their military operations in the province of Chili would, if successful, have the effect of delivering the Empress-Regent from unlawful pressure. It is well known that, acting on the well grounded assumption that the theory of her innocence would be accepted, TSI AN returned from Singan-fu to Peking, and had since treated the representatives of foreign Powers with extreme cordiality.

The death of the Empress-Regent will bring the treaty Powers face to face with a problem of exceeding difficulty, which they evaded or postponed by assenting to her resumption of supreme authority. Shall they permit the nominal Emperor KWANG SU, whose intellect is said to be feeble, to be reinstated in actual sovereignty, or shall they try to find in the Manchu reigning family a fitter custodian of power, or—what is least probable—shall they yield to the wishes of many progressive Chinese and seek an acceptable candidate for the throne among the descendants of the long-deposed Ming dynasty?

This will be an urgent and a knotty question, which the Powers concerned would gladly have adjourned until after the end of the contest between Japan and Russia. Circumstances have made the life of this extraordinary woman, who rose from a hovel to a throne, of peculiar importance to the interests of the Manchu dynasty, if not also to those of the Chinese Empire.

An Attempt to Measure the President.

MR. FRANCIS E. LEUPP's book, called "The Man Roosevelt," will make an excellent campaign biography, if it is intended as such. It presents about as good a portrait as ought to be expected of a conscientious artist whose subject won't sit still for two whole minutes at a time. Its attempts at characterization are friendly but unflattering, its treatment of obvious Rooseveltian weaknesses is humorously tolerant, its anecdotes are picturesque if not always convincing, and its general tone is by no means that of sloop-ore.

In this era of vivid compliments, with such master practitioners at work as Secretary SHAW, the German Ambassador, Senator QUABLES and the Hon. JACOB A. RITS, it is somewhat refreshing to find a eulogist writing like this:

"Mr. ROOSEVELT fairly lives in an atmosphere of superstition. He will speak of a 'perfect good man with a perfect good motive,' when all that he intends to say is that the man is a good man, and 'nothing I have heard in a long time has interested me so much' as the passing bit of information."

This is worth knowing, and worth remembering. Likewise of psychological value is Mr. LEUPP's general estimate of Mr. ROOSEVELT's intellectuality:

"President ROOSEVELT is not a genius. He is a man of an extraordinary natural capacity."

If Mr. LEUPP is right, the German Ambassador was clearly wrong in classing Mr. ROOSEVELT with the Kaiser. For what he says of THEODORE could not be safely said, in Germany, of WILLIAM.

Immunity of Gamblers as Witnesses.

In the prosecution of RICHARD A. CANFIELD last year for conducting a gambling house in this city, the District Attorney endeavored to prove his case by the testimony of one JESSE LEWIS, who was a person who had visited the premises in which gaming was alleged to have been carried on. Mr. LEWIS was asked whether he had ever been on those premises in his life. He refused to answer, on the ground that his answer might tend to criminate him, and his refusal was sustained by the Court of Appeals, notwithstanding the provision of the Penal Code that testimony given by a witness in a proceeding for the violation of the chapter relating to gaming cannot be received against such witness upon any criminal investigation or proceeding.

The language of the Penal Code on this subject is as follows: "No person shall be excused from giving testimony upon any investigation or proceeding for a violation of this chapter upon the ground that such testimony would tend to convict him of a crime; but such testimony cannot be received against him upon any criminal investigation or proceeding."

of the United States, provides that no person "shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself."

The Court of Appeals decided that under our laws as they now exist relating to gambling it is a violation of this provision of the Constitution to compel a person to give testimony tending to show that he was a gambler himself. The court further held that the Legislature had not given such a witness sufficient immunity to render him compellable to testify by providing that his testimony could not be received against him in any other criminal case. It was declared in substance that before the court could compel Mr. LEWIS to tell what he saw in the alleged gambling house of CANFIELD, he must be secured against any criminal prosecution whatever for any crime which his testimony might indicate that he had committed.

The proposed amendment to the Penal Code which District Attorney JEROME is now advocating before the Legislature is designed to broaden the statute in accordance with this decision. If it is enacted it will enable the District Attorney, in prosecuting a person charged with maintaining a gambling house, to compel those who have played there to tell all about what they have heard and seen on the premises.

We can see no valid objection to such legislation. It is much more important to stamp out places at which gambling is regularly carried on than to punish individuals as common gamblers.

Tons of Diamonds.

It is estimated that the total world production of diamonds up to date approximates 85,000,000 carats. As we are not in the habit of weighing our diamonds by the ton, we are in some doubt concerning the proper system of computation, whether Troy or avoirdupois, long ton or short ton. According to the system used by those who do weigh their diamonds in ton quantities, the result would be in the neighborhood of twenty or twenty-five tons of sparkling now appearing as factors in the joys and the miseries of a world which has substituted diamonds for the beads and the wampum of its ancestors.

The regions contributing to this supply and the percentage of their contribution appear as follows: South Africa, 81.5 per cent.; Brazil, 18 per cent.; and the remaining 5 per cent., divided among Borneo, India, New South Wales, and British Guiana, with North America and Russia supplying specimens. The last two of these countries have furnished just about enough to equip an opéra box for a single evening. The deep obnoxiousness of South Africa is fully apparent. The price of diamonds has been heavily advanced during the last year or two; but it is simply appalling to think what the price would have been without the South African supply. Society—American, English and continental, should daily thank heaven for Kimberley and Jagersfontein.

We are unable to give the cubic measurement of the total collection, but so far as weight is concerned it would make a load for a medium sized freight car.

The Finance Department's investigators have been looking over the public school system to find where it would be possible to cut down expenses without injuring the schools. They recommend that the teaching of physical training, cooking, sewing, manual training, drawing and constructive work (?), music, German and French be abandoned, and the \$300,000 spent annually on these studies be applied, with \$145,000 to be saved by reducing the supervising staff, to the teaching of the three Rs. The pupils under 10 years of age now spend less than half the time studying English, penmanship, geography, history and mathematics—a fact that shows the uncommonness of New York's common schools.

The amendments to the Liquor Tax law proposed in the Legislature by the Hon. JOHN RAINES amount only to a bill to compel State and local authorities to perform their duties completely. It is desirable that the laws regulating the sale of liquor should be enforced strictly, but the same is true of all other laws. There is law enough on the statute books now to close every "dive" in the State, and the new amendments are therefore superfluous.

Sensor RAINES might broaden the scope of his measure, and name it "A bill to compel executive officials to do their work." So changed it might be worth passing.

The Gettysburg Address.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: The inquiry as to the whereabouts of the original draft of the various versions of Lincoln's Gettysburg address is answered by the late John G. Nicolay in an article contributed by him to the Century magazine of February, 1904. Mr. Nicolay therein states that there are three sources of authority for the Gettysburg address, as follows:

1. The original autograph manuscript drafted by Mr. Lincoln partly at Washington and partly at Gettysburg.

2. The version made by the shorthand reporter on the stand at Gettysburg when the President delivered it, which was telegraphed and was printed in the leading newspapers of the country on the following morning.

3. The revised copy made by the President a few days after his return to Washington, upon a careful comparison of the shorthand draft and the printed newspaper version with his own recollection of the exact form in which he delivered it.

It may be added that the original autograph copy of the address, which has become the standard text, was furnished by Mr. Lincoln to the Soldiers and Sailors' Fair held in the city of Baltimore in April, 1864, and was a few years ago in the possession of the Lenox Library of New York.

Aid for a Republican Building.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: I fully agree with the plan suggested in THE SUN of the 10th inst. of Mr. George Fentick, that the great Republican party should have a permanent building of its own, and a large number of committees, etc., and perhaps a number from which rules could be derived, making it self-sustaining and prove a source of revenue also. It does seem strange that no such building has been erected, and in consequence Mr. Fentick's suggestion and the unanimous approval of many friends, I beg to offer my aid financially so soon as the matter assumes a practical shape.

JAMES W. HOBBS.

New York, Feb. 18.

HOME RULE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: Home rule is again in the political atmosphere of New York. When I had finished reading an excellent letter of a day or two ago written on the topic by Mr. Carter, I asked myself, Why does not some one endeavor to apply home rule, State rights and community independence to international politics?

The source and sanction of the law of nations have been said to be the consent of each one. How many nations are now existent that are, in theory, as independent and sovereign as the United States? Are there not more than a baker's dozen in the western hemisphere, excluding Cuba and Panama, which are "tied" nations? The United States has assumed a primacy, but yet each is in theory as independent and sovereign as she is. How many independent States like Congo are in Africa? We know of at least four in the Far East, counting Korea as one. Excluding the neutralized, the dependent, interdependent and confederated, there must be thirty others in the Old World. Who in these days realizes that all must consent to make a law of nations justly binding on each and all?

It will be said, it has been said and is to-day said, that there is not, and never has been, a law between all the fifty nations, more or less, which acknowledge no common superior and no common Executive. But yet the men who made the Constitution of the United States recognized such a law, and the Supreme Court has repeatedly said it is a part of the law of the land. Congress can punish as criminal a disobedience of it by the President. Shall we say there is no such law? Is not the President bound to find and obey it, the same for Colombia in the New World as for China, Korea, Japan and Russia in the Old World? Can the law exist and yet be put aside by our President or Congress because the United States must build a canal at Panama?

The United States has heretofore asserted very definite and positive ideas regarding recognition of new States, neutrality and non-intervention, and treated them as the *corpus juris gentes* especially in times of peace, when there are no prize courts to interpret and decide. Here is an object lesson. But, some may say, it is not better to keep Russia in her place, and to continue to do so for centuries to come.

Russia, unlike Japan, is shut out from the ocean almost every side and is equally necessary to her development that she should be able to get out. And Manchuria and Korea lie in her path to the sea.

If home rule shall be applied in international politics, as attempted in New York politics, it will compel the nations not to do to one of the family any act, a consent to the doing of which cannot be traced up to the nation to be constrained.

A modern purpose disregards that rule by elevating into supreme power one nation in the New World, a few great nations in the Old World, and resting their power on the theory that international jurisprudence is not national in origin, but cosmopolitan; that nations are not independent, but interdependent, that authority comes down from a few and does not ascend from all, and that thus a half dozen powerful nations are to have universal empire. Out of that theory has emerged the strange doctrine of international eminent domain and collective civilization. Under it, a few powerful nations are undertaking to operate the rest of the world by way of putting China under protectorship and guardianship, without first asking for her consent.

The United States has had occasion to deal, in a judicial way, with that theory. A luminous opinion was delivered in 1812 by Chief Justice Marshall—exceptional because, as he said, he was "exploring an untraveled path, with few if any aids from precedents, or written law." He began by affirming, as fundamental, that "the world is composed of distinct sovereignties, possessing equal rights and equal independence."

The precise question before the Supreme Court was whether or not it had ordinary jurisdiction to try the claim of an American citizen to a public armed vessel of France, then in the port of Philadelphia, upon the averment that the vessel had been unlawfully taken from him by France, as prize of war, and then made a part of the French Navy.

The opinion expounds why it is, in principle, that a foreign sovereign with whom the United States is at peace, his diplomatic agents and the vessels of his navy, have extrajurisdiction in our jurisdiction. Its premises were set forth in these two sentences, which with the reasoning of the court show that if the United States had rights in Colombia, or has in China, such as have been recently asserted, they must flow from a consent either expressed in a treaty, or in diplomatic understandings, or otherwise implied in the conduct of the United States in the case of The Exchange (7 Cranch, 110).

All exceptions, therefore, to the full and complete power of a nation within its own territories, must be traced up to the consent of the nation itself. They can flow from no other legitimate source.

This is the essence of Home Rule! Has China given her consent to an international police over herself?

New York, Feb. 19. N. B. W.

RUSSIA AT THE BAR OF OPINION.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: Russia has much to answer for. The suppression of Finnish liberty is the last and not the least of her sins. Her despotic form of government is almost a necessity in the present state of her people. Let us judge her fairly on the present question. Americans are bound to do her justice, for there can be no doubt as to the moral right which she rendered in the civil war. As a great inland Empire she wants an ice-free port. She has been debarred of this at the Dardanelles by the jealous fear of Great Britain for the route to India. She now seeks it on the Pacific. Her motive so far is legitimate. It is not merely territorial rapine.

British Russiaophiles are morbidly suspicious. In 1841 Palmerston, the chief of Russian intrigue, was active in Afghanistan, and that Dost Mahomed, the ruler of Cabul, was conspiring with Russia. Sir Alexander Burnes was sent as an envoy to Cabul. His report negated Palmerston's view. Palmerston nevertheless insisted on the invasion of Afghanistan. A British army was lost. There was a call for explanations. Sir Alexander Burnes had perished in the outbreak, but his despatches were produced and seemed to bear out Palmerston's view. Some years afterward authentic copies of the despatches came to light, and it then appeared that the copy presented to Palmerston had been mutilated. But Palmerston was then all-powerful, and defied censure.

Out for Business.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: In a paper printed in Chicago on the 15th inst. I saw an advertisement of a man who sold "Staple and Fancy Groceries." He also mentions, among other things, "the sale of 'fine goods.'" Does this make him eligible to the staff?

E. A. B.

New Castle, Pa., Feb. 17.

Shooting Giraffes for Boot Leather.

Two new sub-species of giraffe have been discovered by Major Powell Cotton, and one of them is represented by a magnificent pair of horns now set up in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington.

Major Powell Cotton accidentally remarked at a meeting of the Zoological Society on Tuesday last that he had been ordered to collect giraffes for scientific purposes, the natives of East Africa are allowed to shoot them for boot leather. One race of giraffe, the Cape species, has become extinct in modern times.

IN DEFENCE OF RUSSIA.

By a Friend of Japan.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: Amid the vaporing gabble of ill informed war correspondents and other noisy persons, who fill the air with their empty phrases, it is refreshing to hear the voice of a sane man. Such is the letter of Mr. Rosette Johnson, entitled "Russia's Fight to American Sympathy," in last Saturday's SUN.

A great country, Russia, engaged in the gigantic task of civilizing Northern Asia (a task not unlike our own in the far West), is suddenly obliged to stop work in order to repel attack. Why? Not because she has done anything which she is not perfectly right to do. On the contrary, she is performing a work for which all the nations should be grateful to her. Why then? Simply because certain Powers, Great Britain being the chief, think she is "getting too big." They probably think the same thing of us some day.

Nobody has a higher opinion of the Japanese than I have. Since my first visit to that beautiful country, I have visited it many times (which visit has been repeated many times). I have watched with interest their rapid rise to power. They have all the military virtues. They are brave, swift, aggressive. They possess good ships, and know how to handle them. They have a strong navy, and they are "as fit as a fiddle." It will be good practice for them, and they will probably make things unpleasant for Russia for a while.

But what in the world has Russia done to deserve it? Nothing. She is simply "getting too big." And Japan is willing to be England's camp.

Japan lies off the coast of Asia in about the same relative position as Great Britain off the coast of Europe. She is separated from Korea by a narrow strait, just as England is separated from France by the Strait of Dover. If England were to take possession of France on the plea that such a step was necessary to her safety, would the plea be a sound one? The French are a thousand times England's strength. France has been a European power for centuries, and it is necessary to her existence as a nation that she should control Korea. For centuries she has had to contend against invaders from the mainland of Asia; and there is no reason why, with a strong navy, she should be constrained to continue to do so for centuries to come.

Russia, unlike Japan, is shut out from the ocean almost every side and is equally necessary to her development that she should be able to get out. And Manchuria and Korea lie in her path to the sea.

If home rule shall be applied in international politics, as attempted in New York politics, it will compel the nations not to do to one of the family any act, a consent to the doing of which cannot be traced up to the nation to be constrained.

"BEWARE THE FIRST SMOKE."

Little Loh Ah Soo's Excellent Advice on the Use of Opium.

Charles S. Buchanan, the principal of the Anglo-Chinese School of the Marjalla (M. F.) Mission in Singapore recently offered a prize to the pupils in the three higher grades of the school for the best essay on the "Use of Opium." In doing so he was really an object to gather information for the benefit of the Philippine Opium Commission. In order that the work of the pupils in his school may be submitted to a larger audience Mr. Buchanan has forwarded to THE SUN some of the essays, from which the English style acquired by his pupils and the proper attitude of at least one of them toward the use of opium may be judged. This is the essay of Loh Ah Soo, uneducated, on the mark of 85 out of a possible 100 was made:

OPIMUM.

Opium is obtained from the juice of the poppy fruits. The poppy plant is a native of warm countries. It is chiefly grown in India and China. It grows to a height of from six to eight feet. Its leaves are oblong shape, and are commonly smooth and green.

The opium is the Chinese as liquor to the European. If a man smokes it he will be addicted to it and brings uneasiness to his mind. It is very foolish for a man to smoke opium, because it not only spoils his body but generally brings shame upon his family and causes him to be hated by other people.

Once there was an opium smoker, who had no money to get opium. So he sold his property in order to get it. I shall never forget the scene. Why the Chinese smoke opium. It is because they think that the opium may be used as a medicine, which can heal their ailments and can give them a better life. I think not, but I fancy that it is a kind of poison. There are many harmful things which a man gets from it, such as his eyes get dim, his heart dried, his limbs get feeble, his countenance gets ungraceful, and his lungs are greatly injured.

So dear boys take my counsel and do not touch the opium. Keep these words in your minds as long as you live. "Beware the first smoke."

LONG AH SOO.

The Sarcasm of a Servant.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: I have read with great interest a letter in your paper of last Sunday on the subject of a problem by one who signed himself "Independent." It seems that there are others than the mistresses who take to gossip on the subject, but is such conversation within a gentleman's sphere?

When he was a boy he was taught to mind his own business, but he seems to have outgrown those early teachings. He is not a gentleman, but a low fellow, colored, rustling silk petticoats and the mistress's peacock feathers he has tussled so hard to save.

It would be well for our independent philosopher to find out for those whom he calls servants are treated well before going into further details. One in every hundred may be bad. But what about the ninety-nine others? Would it be better to have either food, comfort or respect, though in many cases the employees are far superior to their mistresses? This is the case, though the mistresses cry out for relief. What can be expected from such servants? They have the name and may as well have the game.

It is no wonder that so many of those girls start on a wayward road to degradation and ruin when even such people are looked to as somebodys simply because of the mere rustle of silk. Is that all that is necessary to make the lady?

We are all servants in this world. Let your fussy correspondent remember that "all is not gold that glitters."

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. ONE WHO KNOWS.

Our Postal Service.

To the Editor of THE SUN.—Sir: Is there no possible chance of the postal arrangements of this country being put on a satisfactory basis?